

THE REACTION IN CALIFORNIA.

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FROM THE NEW ORLEANS DELTA.

We publish below a statement which presents a gloomy picture of the condition of affairs in the whilom land of gold. It was drawn up and signed by the passengers of the Alabama, returning from California, and handed to us by Col. Mills, formerly of Texas, with a pressing request that we should give it a place in our columns. Col. Mills is an observing and sagacious gentleman. He has spent several months in the mining districts of California, and vouches for the correctness of the facts contained in the communication.

The Colonel assured us that he had never witnessed such scenes of suffering as were presented by the mining districts at this time. Twenty thousand miners have been engaged all the summer in the Southern mines, in damming and turning on the rivers Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced, and others, the beds of which have been raised up to the previous state. They have exhausted all their means in this unprofitable labor, and are deeply in debt to the merchants. The raining season, which commences in November, will force them back, penniless and destitute, to the towns, where they must be fed and supported during the winter, or sent back to the States, either of which appears almost impossible. Col. Mills fears that this desperate situation of the miners will give rise to excesses and disorders of the most alarming character.

The great object of a California emigrant is no longer to make a fortune, but to save enough to pay his passage back to the States. This is sometimes the labor of months. A party of emigrants—composed of eight persons—applied to Col. Mills, when he passed through Panama, for means to prosecute their voyage to California. Col. Mills advanced eight hundred dollars to them, on condition that they should follow him and work for him until they would reimburse him.

They agreed to its terms, lauded its rationality and perseveringly endured five months, and could repay him only one hundred and thirty-five dollars of the amount advanced by him. The Colonel related many other instances of disappointment and unrewarded toil, which occurred under his own observation. Out of seventeen personal friends who labored in the same diggings with him, only three had collected enough of the dust to defray their expenses back to their homes—the others had not only lost all the money which they brought with them, but had gone in debt.

Thus is the golden mirage of California vanishing!

STEAMER ALABAMA, NOVEMBER 27, 1850.

We, the undersigned, passengers in the steamship Alabama, direct from California, in view of the many false and exaggerated statements in circulation as regards the productiveness of the mines, deem it a duty to give some facts, which came under our immediate observation, for the consideration of those who are about to visit that State for the purpose of mining. In this voluntarily laying before the public our experience and observations in California, we wish it distinctly understood that our statements can be relied upon as strict-

We have viewed with regret the many false statements circulated in newspapers, based on information derived from the press in California, the conductors of which are engaged in the transportation business on the Atlantic and Pacific. The bankers, merchants, and traders, whose business transactions are conducted with the gold regions, and the holders of the gold region, assist, in no small degree, in misleading the public in regard to the flattering prospects of those engaged in mining. They have induced thousands and tens of thousands to seek fortunes in California at great sacrifices, who have been misled rather than benefited by the experiment if they had been informed of the true condition and prospects of those engaged in working the mines.

We believe that thousands have been induced to emigrate to California, during the past year, on account of the exaggerated report made by the Government agent, (Mr. King,) and by the statements made by the Delegates in Congress in relation to the gold bearing quartz. They stated that quartz was sold at auction for \$100 per ton, and that it was worth three dollars per pound. These statements coming to the miners through the newspapers published abroad, struck them with profound astonishment. Now, there is not one miner in five hundred who has found in all his researches a pound of quartz rock worth fifty cents per pound; and the undersigned, who have been deeply interested in the matter, having carried machinery to the mines at great expense to work the quartz, know that none can be found there worth the present price for exportation, that about one hundred thousand

Americans were in California at the commencement of the present year. The emigration this year is put down at sixty thousand across the plains, ten thousand over land, through Texas and Mexico, and fifty thousand across the Isthmus—making two hundred and twenty thousand. Supposing twenty thousand have returned home during the present year, (and this is said to be a liberal calculation), two hundred thousand Americans remain in the country. If asked what is the condition and prospects of this large number of American citizens, we would say "most deplorable." The forty or fifty thousand who have been engaged in damming and turning rivers during the summer, have been almost uni-

They were generally disappointed. Having lost the labor of three summers, and the means they had previously procured, thousands of them are reduced to want, and involved in debt for subsistence, &c.

Those who were engaged in the dry diggings, depot, &c., have also been unsuccessful during the past season.

It was a general opinion of the miners last month, that not more than thirty or ninety every hundred had realized money enough to enable them to return to their families; and that not more than one in twenty had realized a dollar clear of expenses during the season.

All hopes of making fortunes in California are lost sight of in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, and the almost univer-

We have deemed it our duty—a duty we felt due to the American people, that beneath the memory of their sacrifice

And the people—this necessity to present our contribution for the foregoing facts, leaving all to act according to their own judgments in the matter.

[Signed by ninety-nine persons.]

TELEGRAPH REPORTS, &c.

BALTIMORE, DEC. 13.—5 P. M.

The auction sale of tickets to Jenny Lind's fourth and last grand concert at the Front street theatre on to-morrow night, took place to-day. They were nearly all sold at premiums of fifty cents up to five dollars, making the seat's cost from four to ten dollars each. The anxiety to buy was as great as ever.

The "Queen of Song" will leave for Washington on Monday morning, and arrive in your city about eleven o'clock. To-day she rode out and visited several of our charity institutions, bestowing her gifts of benevolence. I am told, profusely. She will give a concert to-morrow morning to the scholars of the public schools. This she does of her own free will; she says that if her music is any gratification to those who, fortunately, are able to pay for it, it must be equally pleasing to those who have not the means of paying. She therefore has determined to give this gratuitous entertainment.

We have quite cold weather. Our market is quiet. Sales of Howard street flour at \$4.62, and City Mills \$4.50. Red wheat '98 a 102 cents; white corn \$2.52 a 53 cents; yellow 53 a 54; white 54 a 55; oats 34 a 38 cents; rye 74 cents; whiskey 26 a 27 cents.

The receipts of tobacco are very light; sales small and holders firm; common Maryland \$6; good \$7.50 to \$9; middling \$6.50 a \$7.50. The inspections of the week are 219 bids. Stocks firm; sales of \$1,000 Maryland sixes, 1024; but little doing.

The telegraph reports flour firm in New York; grain also firm; pork advanced; cotton dull, with a decline of one-quarter, since the arrival of the steamer.

CHARLESTON, DECEMBER 13, 1850.

Gen. J. D. MEANS elected Governor of South Carolina.

FROM EUROPE.

The steamer *America* arrived at Halifax on Tuesday. Her news from Liverpool is but three days later than previous accounts. Another decline is reported in the cotton market: Orleans 7½, Mobile 7½, Uplands 7½, Middling 7½ to 7½. The change from gold to silver in the Belgian currency has caused an advance of from one to one and a quarter per cent. in the value of silver.

The agitation in England consequent upon the late movements of the Pope had greatly increased,

The latest news from Germany is reported to be in no respect more pacific, nor are affairs less critical and complicated, than for two weeks previous to the sailing of the America.

to the training of the Americans.